



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

February 13, 2012

5:30 p.m., 6th Floor OMB Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

David Turner, Theresa Welch Fordham, Ralph Cloud, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Frederick Caldwell, James Tolbert

Members Absent: 2

Janet Selzer, Melissa Ann Luna

Member Vacancies: 1

Staff Present: Debbie Hamlyn, Deputy City Manager, Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Victor Rivera, General Services Facilities Superintendent, Irene Ramirez, Assistant City Engineer, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

1. *Agenda Item #1.* Meeting Called to Order

David Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. *Agenda Item #2.* Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2012

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino requested a spelling *correction* to the minutes on page 2.

“8. *Agenda Item #8.* *Discussion and Action: Access to Sports Fields Paula Powell Manager..*”

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to approve minutes as corrected. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. *Agenda Item #3.* Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)

None

4. *Agenda Item #4.* Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. She encouraged members to attend upcoming events and visit recreation centers.

5. *Agenda Item #5.* Presentation and Action: San Jacinto Plaza Park Plan

Debbie Hamlyn, Deputy City Manager, presented a PowerPoint entitled “San Jacinto Plaza Redesign.” Ms. Hamlyn reviewed the designer’s conceptual plan and highlighted new park amenities, as well as historical and traditional features that would remain. Discussion ensued on Council direction, historic preservation, retail kiosks, landscape architecture and recreation activities (Bocce, horse shoes, chess, shuffle board, etc.). Handout

No action taken.

6. Agenda Item #6. Presentation and Action: Status of Park Lighting Compliance with Dark Sky Ordinance

Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, presented a PowerPoint highlighting his recommended amendments to the outdoor lighting code to add “parks” to the list of applicable sites that could be lit for night use. Discussion ensued on maximum lumens per acre and athletic field lighting.

Victor Rivera, Facilities Superintendent, reported that General Services estimates dark sky compliance by 2016. Further discussion ensued on the status of dark sky compliance, sports lighting shields, light trespass, and park lighting objectives.

Motion by James Tolbert to endorse the recommended amendments to the Dark Sky Ordinance. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Motion carried (unanimous).

Jennifer Barr-Ardovino departed at 6:46 p.m.

7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Parks and Recreation Projects Recommended for the 2012 Quality of Life Bond

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, presented aerials of park sites included in the Department’s list of proposed projects for the 2012 Bond. The projects include a number of initiatives outlined in the adopted 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Maps representing theme categories of projects (reserves, dog parks, spray parks, new parks, new sports centers, etc.) were also displayed. The maps were representational, not all-inclusive, and illustrate another way of looking at projects for the land.

Ms. Smejkal conveyed a request from Deputy City Manager Hamlyn for the Board to forward their recommendations for bond projects.

Motion by James Tolbert to table the item until the next meeting in March to give time to review information. Second by Frederick Caldwell. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #8. Information and Action: Update on Park Pond Projects

Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, presented updates on the seven park pond projects and the completed Saipan-Ledo Park Pond.

James Tolbert introduced Dr. John Walton, Civil Engineering Professor at University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Walton advocated passive rain water harvesting. Discussion followed on park design, passive rain water harvest, irrigation costs, neighborhood parks, and the intended goals for the park ponds currently approved by City Council.

James Tolbert invited Dr. Walton to return to the Board with a presentation on passive rain water harvest.

No action taken.

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion and Action: Hibachis in Parks

James Tolbert led a discussion on his proposal to ban hibachis. Members decided not to pursue a change for now, with Ralph Cloud noting that Park Rules already state “ILLEGAL TO MARK, DAMAGE, OR DESTROY CITY PROPERTY (Texas Penal Code).”

No action taken.

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10. Agenda Item #10. Subcommittees Reports:

- a. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Representative Meeting Report - City Plan Commission Subcommittee for Comprehensive Plan Rewrite (Jennifer Barr-Ardovino)

On behalf of Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, James Tolbert conveyed that the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite will go before CPAC on February 20, 2012 and the CPC on February 23, 2012.

11. Agenda Item #11. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)
None

12. Agenda Item #12. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Dr. John Walton - Passive Rain Water Harvest Presentation
- Park Land Excesses and/or Shortages Discussion

13. Adjournment – 8:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant